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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA -- U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## STORAGE OF YOUR GROOMING AIDS

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An hour ago Marlene was drifting on "cloud nine" as she thought about chairing the 4-H meeting. But not any longer. Right now she's in a panic! Five minutes until time to leave, and she hasn't been able to find her comb and brush.

And then there's Tom. He wanted to polish his shoes today. But he had a lot of trouble finding the black polish. The problem was that the polishes and shoe shining equipment were scattered all over the house. After much searching, he found the black polish and the other things he needed. But when he opened the can with the black shoe polish lid on it, he found it contained brown polish.

Have you ever had those kinds of things happen to you? If so, you know the feelings of frustration and even anger when you can't find something. You probably have wished for a magic button to push that would make everything appear. But, alas, there are no magic gadgets -- only you.

### Storage Has Always Been a Problem

Storage of possessions has been a problem since the first leaf collection was begun by Adam and Eve. And it's not any less of a problem today. This is because we have more belongings than ever before. Storage plays an important part in our everyday lives. You see, storage of your things affects the amount of time and energy you must spend looking for them.

Most of us don't like to admit it, but we do waste a lot of time finding different items. This is particularly true when things are temporarily lost or extra trips have to be made to get everything we need together. For example, have you ever started to wash your hair and then remembered you forgot the towel? Or spent a lot of time looking all over the house for your comb only to find it in your coat pocket two days later? Such things have happened to most of us. The worst part is that they usually happen when we have the least time for the "seek and ye shall find" routine.

### A Place For Everything . . . And Everything In Its Place

There's no reason for you to run all over the house looking for something you need. That takes a lot of time, which you usually don't have. And it takes effort and energy too.

Finding things isn't a problem if you have a place for everything and keep everything in its own place. Once you decide on the best place to keep each of your things, the next step is to remember to put them back after every use. You'll find that very soon you'll become a "creature of habit" and never have to spend hours looking for something you need.

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### Storage Problems of Teen-Agers

One of the biggest storage problems you probably have as a teenager is with your grooming aids. Those are the items most likely to be seen cluttering up the tops of dressers and chests and any other flat surfaces around -- including the floor. They're also the items most likely to be found after a lot of looking.

Grooming aids are more of a problem for girls than for guys. But that's only because the feminine sex has a greater number and variety of such items. Storage of grooming aids is just as important for guys as for girls.

### The Problem With Grooming Aids

The different shapes, sizes, and places of use make grooming aids a problem storage-wise. For proof, just look at your grooming supplies and think about the various places where you use them. Now look at where you keep your grooming items. No doubt, a lot of them are out of place, which doesn't make your room look too neat. Have you ever wondered why you don't keep things in their proper places? Below are some questions that may help you decide why you have a problem with your grooming supplies.

Yes

No

- |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | Do you have a place to keep everything?<br>If not, you may need to rearrange your present storage, get some additional storage units, or devise a different way to keep things from looking cluttered.                        |
| _____ | _____ | Is it easier to put your things in the wrong place?<br>If it is, maybe you need to change the place where you keep some of your things. This doesn't mean, however, that clothes should be stored in the middle of the floor! |
| _____ | _____ | Do you think that you'll just wait until "good ole Mom" takes time to pick up after you?<br>That kind of "maid service" is available only at home. Once you leave, it's all over!   |
| _____ | _____ | Do you not want to keep your things where they belong? If so, you need to ask yourself why you feel this way, and seriously consider changing your attitude.  |

From the above questions, you can see that there are two basic reasons why your grooming aids get scattered everywhere. Either you don't put them back after each use, or you don't have a place to keep them.

Sometimes we have places to keep things, but they're not convenient. So we just leave the items out. For example, maybe your comb and brush belong in a drawer, but they're more convenient to use when they're on top of the dresser. Since that's where they're usually kept, why not devise some kind of neat looking storage for the top of the dresser? One idea is to keep combs and brushes in a colorful flowered mug.

### When You Have A Storage Problem

When you have a problem with where to keep things, you should look at your present storage situation. You may just need to rearrange where you keep different items. Or you may find that you need to build or buy some additional storage units. Of course, in a lot of cases, all you need is a little imagination to find different ways to keep things from looking cluttered.

### Where To Keep Items Depends On ...

1. Place of Use. You're more likely to put things back in place if you keep them where they're used. Toothpaste is used in the bathroom, so that's the logical place to keep it. Of course, replacing the cap and putting it in the cabinet where it belongs does take a little effort, but not as much as it would if you kept the toothpaste in another room.
2. Accessibility. If an item is easy to get and easy to put away, you are less likely to mind keeping it in its place. For example, Sherri was supposed to keep her hair dryer in the closet. But she usually left it in the middle of her bed or on the floor. Sherri always sits or lies on her bed and reads when drying her hair. So, she decided her dryer was easier to use and to put out of sight if she kept it under her bed.
3. Similarity. Like grooming items should be stored together. This helps you avoid making a lot of extra trips to get everything you need together. Most people wouldn't keep a clothes brush with their hair brush or a can of shoe polish with their make-up. Basically, hair care items should be kept separately from your facial care aids. You'll also probably keep your shoe care supplies in one place and your clothing care items in another.
4. Safety. Whenever you decide where to keep anything you should consider the safety factor. Grooming aids are not as harmful as some of the other items kept around the house, but accidents do happen. For example, take the girl who sprayed her hair with the can of room freshener instead of hair spray. Or the guy who squeezed a glob of toothpaste into his hand instead of hair cream. Such incidents are funny, but they're frustrating and could be harmful in some cases.

### Storage Ideas

Where can you get ideas for new ways and places to keep your grooming supplies neat and handy? Why not ask your friends what they do with problem items? Magazines, home economics textbooks, and other materials are another source for suggestions you may find useful. Look at the way things are stored in the kitchen and other rooms in your home. Maybe storage units used elsewhere could be adapted for your grooming supplies. Of course, your imagination will help you come up with a lot of storage ideas. As a starter for your imagination, a few ideas are given below.

Sometimes you can't keep items near where they are used. If this is one of your problems, a tray, basket, or some other container is a great way to carry items from one place to another in just one trip.

Hair curlers have a way of getting scattered from the dresser top to the bed and on the floor. So why not make a pretty bag with a draw string closing for the rollers and your other hair setting supplies?

Are your drawers usually a disorganized mess? If so, perhaps you need to add dividers to organize the space. First, decide what to put in the drawer. Then make the dividers from heavy cardboard or plywood or use open-topped boxes.

Often drawers are too deep and a lot of valuable space is wasted. To remedy such a situation, add a sliding tray to the top half of the drawer.

Quite often bathrooms don't have enough space for storage of cans, bottles, jars, and tubes of things. To solve this problem you could make a partitioned storage unit to set by the sink or hang on the wall. This idea adapts well to the grooming aids used by the guys.

A small decorated glass is perfect for eyebrow pencils, eyeliner brushes, mascara, and other make-up used by the girls. Also, make-up bags for the purse are a must to keep from having to take everything out just to find your lipstick.

These are only a few of many ideas for making the storage of your grooming aids attractive, neat, and handy. There are many other ideas just waiting to be thought of. Why not see how many you can come up with?

#### Guides For The Storage Of Grooming Aids

Similarity, place of use, accessibility, and safety are the four points you should keep in mind when deciding where to keep your grooming aids.

The best way to start in deciding about storage is to group your grooming aids according to what they groom -- hair, face, nails, body, clothes, or shoes. Then note the best place for you to use each item. Next decide where each item will be easiest to get and to put away. Lastly, you'll need to check whether proper storage is available or can be arranged.

With those guides in mind, use the following information sheet to help you improve the storage of your grooming aids.

## STORAGE OF YOUR GROOMING AIDS

### Self-Improvement Guide

The suggested things to do and the questions in this guide are designed to help you learn more about storage by improving your own storage situation.

1. What items do you use in taking care of your hair?

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2. Do you keep all of them in one place? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Can you improve the storage of your hair grooming aids? \_\_\_\_\_

5. If so, explain how. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. If you don't have one, prepare a nail care kit. List the items you include in it below.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

7. Where do you usually care for your nails? \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- | <u>facial care aid</u> | <u>place of use</u> | <u>storage place</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
|                        |                     |                      |

[illegible]

- care supplies differently: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Do you have any problems related to the storage of these items? \_\_\_\_\_

15. If so, what is the problem and how can you improve it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. Do you have a shoe care kit? \_\_\_\_\_

17. If not, make one and list the items you keep in it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. Where is the best place to keep it and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

19. What items are needed to care for your clothes?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. Do you need any different storage arrangements for your clothing care items?  
If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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